



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

affecting others, according to their own notions of rectitude, or to express freely whatever opinions they may be pleased to entertain. To answer the author's ingenious question ; the nation, which first abandoned the slave trade and published its motives for so doing, did only what was its right and its duty. And the same may be said of the individual who first did so. But had that nation undertaken *to control all others* by its opinion, and to punish their subjects engaged in the traffic as pirates, this would have been altogether incompatible with the principles of public law.

It is very natural and excusable that this author should be peculiarly sensitive in regard to every expression, which he could imagine to charge him with speaking disrespectfully of the American government. We had no intention to cast any such imputation on him, nor do we think that our language imports any. Indeed we should be slow to forgive ourselves, had we uttered a doubt of his respect for the government of his country, or of the ability and fidelity with which he has served it.

NOTE. We forgot to refer above to the letter of Messrs Pinckney, Marshall, and Gerry, to the French minister of foreign affairs, dated January 27, 1798, in which they argue at length in favor of the same construction of the 18th article of Jay's treaty, which we have adopted. The following extracts will give some idea of the course and the result of their reasoning.—'The objections to this article shall be considered according to its letter and according to its operation.'—'The admissions contained in the clause are, 1st, that provisions are not generally contraband, and, 2dly, that they are sometimes contraband.'—'The only alteration, which is by the letter of the clause produced in the law of nations, is to exempt from confiscation goods, which under that law would have been subject to it. But it has been suspected to have an object and an operation in practice different from its letter.'—'America with the pride of conscious integrity repels this insinuation.'—'The intention of the government and the practice under the article are in direct opposition to these injurious suspicions.'—'It is plain then that this article admits the seizure of provisions in no situation, where they were not before seizable.' 3 Wait's State papers, 239 to 242.

---

ART. IX.—*A Geographical Dictionary, or Universal Gazetteer, Ancient and Modern. In two volumes. By J. E. Worcester, A. M. Second edition. Boston. 1823.*

OF the first edition of this work we expressed our opinion at the time of its appearance,\* and availed ourselves of that occasion to attempt a survey of the changes, which have tak-

\* See North American Review, VII. 39.

en place in political geography, within the last thirty years. The present edition is considerably augmented in size, and still more in the amount of its contents, in consequence of the more diligent condensation of matter, with which it is compiled and printed. Mr Worcester informs us, in his modest preface, that having possessed himself of various additional sources of information, he has undertaken a laborious revision of the whole work, written anew almost all the principal articles, and given to it a more systematic form, than it possessed in the first edition. In its present form, it is, we believe, the most comprehensive geographical dictionary that can be called a *manual*, and we think it would be difficult to name a work in two volumes in which more information is contained. The great demand for books of this class, which exists in America, is strongly characteristic of our habits and taste, and the skill manifested in their compilation not less indicative of the literary improvement of our country. One needs but cast his eye on the little volume, bearing date a hundred years ago, which, by the name of a gazetteer, has descended as an heirloom in most of our families, and in which the geography and statistics of the habitable globe are comprised in a small and ill compiled duodecimo, and contrast such a volume with the work of Mr Worcester, to be convinced of the progress of modern society.

An inspection of Mr Worcester's preface will suffice to show, from what authentic sources his Gazetteer has been composed. Besides various original works, the best English, French, and German gazetteers and books of geography have furnished him materials; and the diligence of the Germans in this department is so well established, as alone to guaranty the instructiveness of a work, in which they are duly consulted. The following passage from the preface will prove the extensive range of Mr Worcester's inquiries :

‘ It would be unnecessary, if it were possible, to specify all the sources from which information has been derived. It may not, however, be improper to mention some of the principal ones. The two works of similar design, which have contributed chiefly to the improvement of this, are the Edinburgh Gazetteer, completed in 1822, and Hassel's “Geographisch-statistisches Handwörterbuch,” published at Weimar in 1817. Both of these are very valuable works, abounding in recent geographical and sta-

tistical information. The geography of the United States has been improved by the use of various recent publications and documents, and particularly by an extensive correspondence with the different parts of the country. The late census has been incorporated; and in cases in which the population is stated without date, it is to be understood as given according to the census of 1820. Among the sources from which information has been derived respecting South America, are the publications of Bonycastle, Mawe, and Brackenridge, and the documents furnished to the government of the United States by the commissioners of 1817. In giving the statistics of Sweden and Norway, use has been made of Djurberg's Geographical Dictionary of Scandinavia, published in Stockholm, in 1818, and of Hagelstam's Geographical and Statistical Map of Sweden and Norway, published in 1820. Among the works made use of with regard to France, is the geography of that country by Mentelle, published at Paris in 1821. From Picot's Statistics of Switzerland, published at Geneva, in 1819, information has been derived respecting that country. In improving the notices of the articles pertaining to Great Britain, the *Edinburgh Gazetteer* has furnished the principal materials; it has also been of great use with regard to the rest of Europe, and the other parts of the globe. The works of Hassel, Liechtenstern, and Cannabich have furnished much information respecting Europe, and particularly Germany. Hassel, and also Malte-Brun, have been of much use with regard to other parts. In addition to the works above enumerated, recourse has been had to books of travels and various other sources. In cases in which the information is doubtful, or the statements differ, the authorities relied upon are frequently given.

Works of this description are liable to some defects almost inseparable from the nature of their composition. In briefly alluding to these, we are so far from referring particularly to the *Gazetteer* of Mr Worcester, that we are disposed, on the contrary, to regard it as freer from them than any other work of the kind before the public. It is obvious, however, that, from the way in which gazetteers have been written, a good deal of superfluous matter has been accumulated and still more that is valuable omitted. The great occasion of the composition of these works, we suppose to have been the extensive military and commercial operations of modern times. War and trade have not only drawn the attention of the world, from time to time, to particular regions and permanently fixed it on some; but they have also in various ways furnished the information, for which they first create the demand. The almost incredible number

of newspapers printed in the free countries of the world, in making every man a reader of intelligence, political, military, and commercial, from the four quarters of the globe, has spread far and wide the demand for compends, in which geographical and statistical information is reduced to the most convenient order.

We confess ourselves unacquainted with the first essay at the compilation of a work of this kind in Europe, but we suppose it admits little doubt, that it was made for the gratification of the interest existing in the public at the time. If produced in the thirty years' war, a period uncommonly productive of geographical writings, it would dwell of course most on the geography of Germany. At a later period it would be filled with names accommodated to the Turkish campaigns. A gazetteer from the time of the duke of Marlborough would be full in the chapters of Flanders and the Upper Danube. It is only within the last fifty years that geography has been so thoroughly treated, that geographical dictionaries have thrown off the local character they possessed, and all parts of the world are described with a fulness in some degree proportioned to their respective importance. It is evident, that to write a perfect gazetteer, it would be necessary to read all the original works, of all kinds, that contain geographical and statistical information, and to condense the result in an alphabetical form, and with a reference to the spirit of the age, and the predominant topics of interest. In a work thus composed something no doubt would be omitted that now holds its ground by prescriptive right in these works. We do not mean to hint at the changes, which take place in political geography, and which require from time to time to be corrected ; but to the different parts of the world to which the eyes of men from age to age are turned. When Bonaparte marched his army to Moscow, notwithstanding a part of the way had been beaten by Charles XII, the gazetteers could tell us little of Mojaisk and Maloia-roslavetz. We shall now be better instructed on these heads, but, meantime, we want a guide to follow the campaigns in the Cordilleras of South America, or the interior of modern Greece. In fact, so completely has the wheel of fortune been turned round, that if the wars of the Persians in Armenia, of the Turks in Greece, and of the bey of Egypt in Arabia continue, all our modern gazetteers will sink in value, and a good

manuscript of Stephen of Byzantium, were we fortunate enough to possess that work entire, would be worth them all. Now we suppose that a person, in undertaking to compile a gazetteer feels a great reluctance at omitting any name of a place, which he may find in the preceding works ; for fear that a sacrifice might be made of useful information, and in the opinion that the value of a geographical dictionary increases directly in proportion to the number of articles which it contains. In this way, works of this kind become crowded with a mass of names of no present interest ; and hundreds of articles which will probably never be consulted still retain their places. To strike out these names might require a little hardihood, a little of Mr Burke's courage of the cabinet, but it would materially reduce the bulk of the volume and improve it by the removal of superfluous matter.

If, in the way we have stated, some superfluous matter has been accumulated, something also that is useful has been omitted, from the mode in which these works have been drawn up. No two ages require the same subjects in a gazetteer. We wish to hear of different places, and in a different way of the same places. Many points of information, once thought important, have lost their interest, and other views have risen into consequence. Our geographical dictionaries are now pretty well rid of the old political geography, and the changes which have been introduced since the French revolution, and of which we took a survey in our notice of the first edition of this work, have become incorporated into the best recent gazetteers. But, if we mistake not, the spirit of the times is so revolutionized, such important innovations have been made in the range of political, military, and commercial reading, voyages and travels have so multiplied, that a perfect geographical dictionary, compiled from original materials, would differ in important features from former works, in the articles it might have in common with them ; would not only omit many articles they contain, but extend to many which they omit.

One more suggestion we venture to make on this subject. The design of a geographical dictionary appears to be to enable the person who consults it, to inform himself farther with respect to any geographical name, which he may meet in his reading. Such articles then as consist simply of the name of a place.

and the country to which it belongs, and which of course can add nothing to the information of the reader, who has met with these names in a bulletin or a log-book, might perhaps be omitted without detriment. In a system of geography it may be important to omit no name, which is known to belong under the head of any country. It may sometimes be necessary simply to enumerate towns, rivers, and lakes. But the design of a geographical dictionary being still farther to explain such geographical terms as occur in reading, it would seem that one might dispense not only with all those names which are of infinitely rare occurrence, but also with all those of which little beside the name is given.

In these points, Mr Worcester's Gazetteer, like all other works of the same kind, perhaps, admits of improvement. The different geographical works which he has published, show him to be a person fully competent to introduce the superior mode of compiling a gazetteer, at which we have hinted, and toward which indeed he has made excellent progress in this gazetteer, in writing several important articles anew, and from the latest and most authentic materials. We are aware also, that the prevailing prejudice is likely to be against us, on the subject of the omission of any kind of names in a dictionary of this sort. We have observed that a value is set on similar compilations in direct proportion to the number of articles. Though we are persuaded that other considerations are more important, and that a judicious selection is more to be desired than an unlimited accumulation, Mr Worcester will probably find few to quarrel with him for having taught them more than they wished, and we cannot but recommend his work to that extensive patronage, to which its highly laborious and conscientious compilation is entitled. The typographical execution is unusually neat and sightly, and the whole work forms a repository of geographical and statistical information greater, we apprehend, than is elsewhere condensed into the same compass, and extremely well adapted to this inquisitive, commercial, news-loving community. By this last sentence, moreover, we would by no means be understood to mean that Mr Worcester's Gazetteer is only a newspaper companion. On the contrary, the perusal of the leading articles will establish its claim to the attention of the scientific and curious student of geography. A gazetteer is a book which no

man sits down to read, and reviewers, who read nothing, may well abstain from a gazetteer. Those articles, however, of Mr Worcester's work, which we have had occasion to examine, are prepared with singular diligence and accuracy.

---

**ART. X.**—*The Prospect before us, or Facts and Observations illustrative of the past and present Situation and future Prospects of the United States, embracing a View of the Causes of the late Bankruptcies in Boston: to which is added a Sketch of the restrictive Systems of the principal Nations of Christendom. By a Pennsylvanian. Fourth edition improved. Philadelphia, 1822.*

THIS publication speaks the opinion of a school of economists, who have been active in diffusing their doctrines. Four editions of it were sold or otherwise distributed last autumn and winter, apparently with the design of aiding the attempt which was made in the last session of congress to procure a revision of the tariff, in order to the encouragement of American manufactures. The pamphlet cannot be said to contain any new principle, or new argument. The topics which it treats are, on the contrary, somewhat trite; such as the balance of trade,—the drain of specie,—and the futility of the theories of Adam Smith. There are in it also many misconceptions, as we think, of facts, and as it proclaims the creed of a zealous school of economists among us, and as no pains, we understand, have been spared in circulating it, we have thought it worth while, in a brief commentary on a part of its contents, to expose what we esteem its errors. This we shall do without observing any other order of topics, than that of their occurrence in the work, and with a wish to preserve a more temperate tone than is always conspicuous in the pamphlet itself.

1. With respect to the cause and extent of mercantile distress, our author says :—‘ that the mercantile class is, and always has been, too numerous for the commerce of the country, is admitted on all hands; and that the extraordinary number of bankruptcies which have taken place, not only lately, but during the whole course of the wars of the French